Oil Exploration in the Konkan Belt

3448. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in oil exploration in the Konkan belt in Thriuvanathapuram-Koilam region;

(b) whether the ONGC have any plan to open a regional office in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which this office is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Surface geological map and aerial photogeological studies have been carried out in the area. Gravity surveys have also been done along Kerala Coast by ONGC.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Oil Exploration by Foreign Oil Companies in India

3449. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many foreign oil companies have expressed their interest in oil exploration in India;

(b) whether he had held any discussions with them during his recent visit abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Discussions were held with several foreign oil companies who showed keen interest in participating in the Fourth Round of bidding.

Cocount Plantation

3450. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total coconut production in the country during 1991-92, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring new areas in karnataka and Kerala under coconut planation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per the latest available official Statistics, the State-wise production of coconut during 1989-90 is under:-

State	*Production (million nuts)*
Andhra Pradesh	654.7
Assam	69.4
Goa	107.5
Karnataka	1158.7
Kerala	4394.0
Maharashtra	108.3
Orissa	113.7

State	*Production (million nuts)*
Tamil Nadu	2302.4
Tripura	4.2
West Bengal	238.5
Adaman & Nicobar Island	83.1
Lakshadweep	25.2
Pondicherry	23.7

(b) and (c). Under the Central Sector Scheme being implemented by the Coconut Development Board during 1991-92, and additional area of 1500 ha. is proposed to be brought under Coconut plantation in Karnataka and Kerala A subsidy of Rs. 3000/- per ha. is provided to the farmers in 3 annual instalments.

Allotment of Petrol/Diesel Retail outlets and LPG Agencies

3451. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petroleum, diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies sanctioned by various companies during 1990 and during the first six months of 1991 separately, State-wise;

(b) the total number of agencies, including above, State-wise as on September 30, 1991; and

(c) the number of the agencies proposed to be established during the rest of the current financial year, State-Wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). As on 1.10.91, there were 3,999 LPG agencies and 15073 Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets in the country. During the year 1990-91, a total of 229 Retail Outlets and 102 LPG Distributorships were awarded by the Oil Companies.

LPG agencies ad Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets are opened indifferent places in the country as per the Marketing Plans, product availability, etc.

The State-wise details of the total number of LPG agencies and Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets as on 1.10.91 is annexed.

STATEMENT

State	*LPG*	*RO*
Andhra Pradesh	337	1192
Arunachal Pradesh	12	26
Assam	108	321
Bihar	143	912
Goa	29	65